

# BENEFITS NEWS

An Information Publication for State of California Employees

## 2010 Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awards State Merit Award Program

The Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor is the highest honor the State can bestow upon its employees. Established in 1959 and administered by the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) the Medal of Valor Program (MOV) celebrated its Golden Anniversary in December 2009. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented Gold and Silver medals to 27 State employees at a special ceremony honoring them for their heroic acts. During the ceremony, the Governor also unveiled a new, state-of-the-art Medal of Valor Award Kiosk with touch screen access to details about past Awardees. The Kiosk is on permanent display on the first floor of the State Capitol, near the east end steps.

Information on past Awardees can also be accessed online at [www.medalofvalor.ca.gov](http://www.medalofvalor.ca.gov).

### Medal of Valor Awards

There are two types of awards:

**The Special Act (Gold Medal)** is given for an extraordinary act of heroism by a State employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service, performed at great risk to his or her own life in an effort to save human life.

**The Special Service (Silver Medal)** is given for an act of heroism by a State employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service, performed at personal risk to his or her safety to save human life or State property.

### Three Step Nomination Process

1. Nominations must be reviewed and signed by your Department/Agency Director or Commissioner. The Nomination Package contains a DPA012 fill and print application form, which may be downloaded from DPA's website [www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/awards/medal-of-valor.htm](http://www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/awards/medal-of-valor.htm).
2. The department's Merit Award Administrator submits the completed package to DPA, Benefits Division, Merit Award Program. Nominations are reviewed for completeness and forwarded to the Merit Award Board for recommendation and final approval by the Director of DPA.
3. Once approved, your Department's Director and Merit Award Administrator will be notified about award ceremony arrangements.

MOV nominations are accepted throughout the year. **The deadline to submit nomination packets to DPA for inclusion in this year's ceremony is August 2, 2010.** Please contact your department Merit Award Administrator or Kari Ehrman, Merit Award Program Analyst at (916) 324-0522, or Carol Azevedo, Benefits Program Manager at (916) 327-1438.

### Examples of Past Awardees

*A Department of Motor Vehicles Office Services Supervisor rescued an unconscious man from a burning vehicle.*

A *Department of Mental Health* Psychiatric Technician prevented an attempted carjacking and robbery.

A *Department of Fish and Game* Warden and a Lieutenant rescued a fellow Warden who was shot and wounded during a marijuana eradication detail.

A *Department of Conservation* Engineering Geologist rescued two passengers from a car sinking into Lake Mendocino.

A *Department of Transportation* Structural Steel Painter attempted to rescue a suicidal man from drowning.

A *California Highway Patrol* Officer stopped and apprehended an armed man who was shooting at a group of pedestrians.

A *CAL FIRE* Captain lead a rescue team through steep mountainous land to save a teenage boy whose leg was trapped by large boulders.

### **Additional Information**

You can view additional information about the MOV Award Program and download the Nomination Package and the DPA 012 Nomination Form from DPA's Website at [www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov) (under Quick Links click on Awards then Medal of Valor). You may also contact us at [medalofvalor@dpa.ca.gov](mailto:medalofvalor@dpa.ca.gov).

### **For More Information**

**DPA Benefits Division**  
(916) 322-0300

**Dental Program**  
(916) 324-0866

**Drug Testing Program**  
(916) 324-9386

**Employee Assistance Program  
MHN (Managed Health Network)**  
1-866-327-4762

**FlexElect Program**  
(916) 327-6429

**Group Legal Services Plan  
ARAG®**  
1-866-762-0972

**Group Term Life Insurance Plan**  
(916) 324-0533

**Health Promotion Program**  
(916) 324-9398

**Long-Term Disability Insurance  
Plan**  
(916) 324-0533

**Merit Award Program**  
(916) 324-0522

**Pre-Tax Parking**  
(916) 324-0526

**Rural Health Care Program**  
(916) 327-1439

**Savings Plus Program**  
1-866-566-4777  
[www.sppforu.com](http://www.sppforu.com)

**SDI/FMLA**  
(916) 323-3343

**State-Owned Housing Program**  
(916) 327-1438

**Travel & Relocation and  
Vanpool Programs**  
(916) 324-0526

**Vision Service Plan**  
1-800-877-7195

**Workers' Compensation  
Program**  
(916) 445-9760

### **DPA Fax Numbers**

**Benefits Division**  
(916) 322-3769

**Savings Plus Program**  
(916) 327-1885

### **Internet Address**

[www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov)